



# What family benefits does Social Security Scotland deliver?

Benefit	Payment	Eligibility
<p><b>Scottish Child Payment</b></p> <p>A payment per child to help towards the costs of supporting a family.</p>	£100 every four weeks	Children under 16
<p><b>Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment</b></p> <p>A payment to help towards the costs of pregnancy or looking after a baby</p>	£642.35 payment for a first child and £321.20* for subsequent children.	Apply from the end of the 24 <sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy until the baby is 6 months old.
<p><b>Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment</b></p> <p>A payment per child to help with the costs of early learning.</p>	One-off £267.65 payment	Apply when a child is between the ages of 2 and 3.5 years. People can still apply if their child is not taking up a place at nursery.
<p><b>Best Start Grant School Age Payment</b></p> <p>A payment per child to help with the costs of preparing for school.</p>	One-off £267.65 payment	Apply in the year a child is first old enough to start school. People can still apply and get the payment if a child is deferring starting school.
<p><b>Best Start Foods</b></p> <p>Money on a pre-paid chip and pin card to buy healthy food including eggs, milk, fruit, vegetables and pulses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● £18 every four weeks during pregnancy</li> <li>● £36 every four weeks from birth until the child's first birthday</li> <li>● £18 every four weeks for any child from 1 until they turn 3.</li> </ul>	Apply from pregnancy until a child turns 3.

\* In some circumstances, people may be able to get the higher payment of £642.35 for subsequent children. These include people forced to leave their home due to domestic abuse, some people granted refugee status and some carers who took on responsibility for a child over the age of 1.

## Automatic payments of Best Start Grant's Early Learning Payment and School Age Payment

We can now make automatic payments for certain benefits without the need to apply. If people get Scottish Child Payment and their child meets the age conditions, Social Security Scotland also automatically check if they can get Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment and Best Start Grant School Age Payment.

### Who can get these payments?

People can apply for these payments whether in work or not. People may be eligible if they, or their partner, are the parent or full-time carer of a child and if they get tax credits or certain other benefits.

For Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods, people who are under 18 do not need to get any benefits to apply. People who are 18 or 19 also and do not get any benefits or payments can still apply for Best Start Grant or Best Start Foods if their parent or carer is getting certain benefits.

### How do people apply?

We take applications via our freephone helpline on 0800 182 2222, by post or online at [mygov.scot/benefits](https://mygov.scot/benefits).

### What are the qualifying benefits for these payments?

Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Income Support, Pension Credit, Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA), Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Housing Benefit (Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods only)

For Best Start Grant and Scottish Child Payment, we do not need to know about your income. For Best Start Foods, some of the benefits have an income limit.

### How can people contact us?



Call us free on: 0800 182 2222



Text Relay Service: 18001 +0300 244 4000 (for the hard of hearing)



British Sign Language users: [contactscotland-bsl.org](https://contactscotland-bsl.org)



Webchat: [chat.socialsecurity.gov.scot](https://chat.socialsecurity.gov.scot)

### What evidence will be required?

Most people will be able to apply without sending any evidence. This is because we check with the Department for Work and Pensions and HMRC that you are on a qualifying benefit or tax credit.

We need evidence that the person applying is responsible for the child, usually through the child being named on a benefits claim. Kinship carers can demonstrate responsibility for a child with a certain legal order, written agreement with a local authority or in certain circumstances, a letter of support from a local authority.

### Will they need their partner's information?

Yes if they live in the same household and are:

- married to each other
- civil partners of each other
- living together as if you are married.

### What happens if someone's circumstances change after applying?

People need to let us know if their circumstances change at any point. This is to make sure that they are getting everything that they are entitled to. This could include changes to what benefits or tax credits someone gets or where they live.

### How will people be paid?

Eligible families will be paid into their chosen account. Best Start Foods will be paid onto a card.

### Do these payments affect other benefits?

No, they will not be taken into account for UK benefit and tax credit assessments.

Visit The Scottish Government's cost of living website for further information on support available for families:

[gov.scot/costoflivingsupport](https://gov.scot/costoflivingsupport)

